AVENGELYNE

GLORY

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AVENGELYNE CREATED BY
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THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.
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INKS
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DANNY MIKI
JON SIBAL
LETTERS
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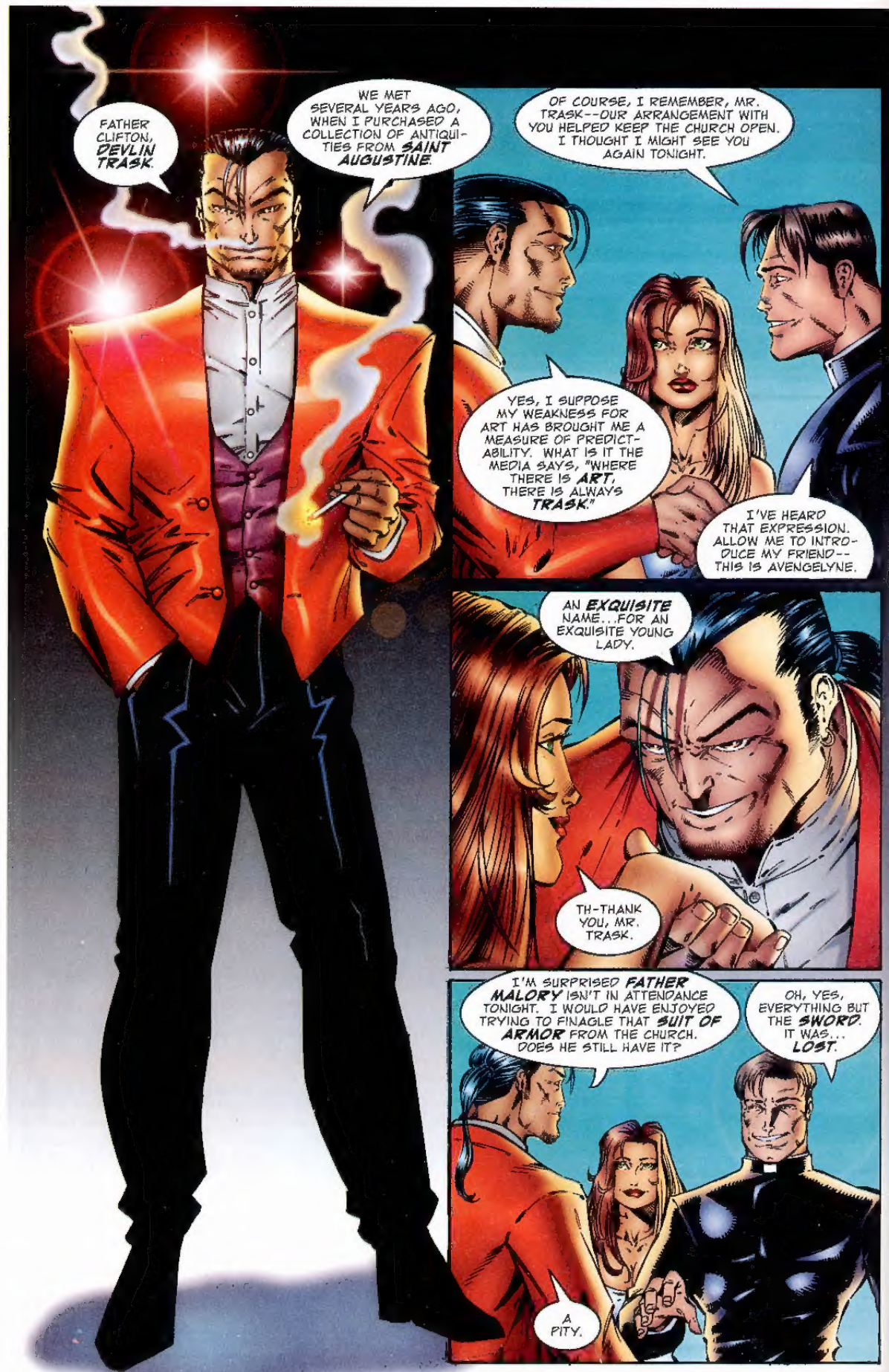
EDITOR
MATT HAWKINS
I'M REVIEWING THIS NEW COLLECTION FOR MY COLLEGE NEWSPAPER. I'M GOING TO CALL IT, "HEAVENLY BODIES --A LOOK AT ANGELS IN CHRISTIAN ART."
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SO, RIPTIDE, A LOT OF MEN OUT THERE THINK OF YOU AS AN ANGEL AFTER YOUR RECENT APPEARANCE IN PUSSYCAT MAGAZINE.
THANKS, JIM--BUT NOW THAT I'M BACK WITH YOUNGBLOOD, I'M TRYING TO PUT THAT ALL BEHIND ME.
I'M JUST HERE TO ENJOY THE OPENING AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THE ARTS.
ARE YOU ENJOYING YOURSELF, AVENGELYNE?
VERY MUCH, PETER. IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE--
--ADAM AND EVE'S EXPULSION FROM PARADISE.
OH, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT. YOU KNOW, IT REALLY WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL.
UH, YES... I'M SURE IT WASN'T. COME ON, THERE'S A LOT MORE TO SEE.
FATHER CLIFTON!
HMM?


FATHER CLIFTON, DEVLIN TRASK.
WE MET SEVERAL YEARS AGO, WHEN I PURCHASED A COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES FROM SAINT AUGUSTINE.
OF COURSE, I REMEMBER, MR. TRASK--OUR ARRANGEMENT WITH YOU HELPED KEEP THE CHURCH OPEN. I THOUGHT I MIGHT SEE YOU AGAIN TONIGHT.
YES, I SUPPOSE MY WEAKNESS FOR ART HAS BROUGHT ME A MEASURE OF PREDICTABILITY. WHAT IS IT THE MEDIA SAYS, "WHERE THERE IS ART, THERE IS ALWAYS TRASK."
I'VE HEARD THAT EXPRESSION. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY FRIEND--THIS IS AVENGELYNE.
AN EXQUISITE NAME...FOR AN EXQUISITE YOUNG LADY.
TH-THANK YOU, MR. TRASK.
I'M SURPRISED FATHER MALORY ISN'T IN ATTENDANCE TONIGHT. I WOULD HAVE ENJOYED TRYING TO FINAGLE THAT SUIT OF ARMOR FROM THE CHURCH. DOES HE STILL HAVE IT?
OH, YES, EVERYTHING BUT THE SWORD. IT WAS... LOST.
A PITY.

MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE CATACOMBS OF THE MUSEUM...
I'M TELLIN' YA, DARLIN'--YA JUST GOTTA RELAX! I KNOW THIS SCEPTER OF AMAZONIA IS THE MOST POWERFUL OBJECT YER PEOPLE EVER CREATED, BUT...
...THIS SAFE WUZ BUILT BY THE SAME OUTFIT WHO MADE THE CELLS AT THE OL' YOUNG-BLOOD H-Q.
I REALIZE THAT, TROLL--BUT IF THIS WERE TO FALL INTO MY FATHER'S HANDS--
--THE RESULTS WOULD BE DISASTROUS!
I REMOVED IT FROM THE ROYAL VAULTS ON THE ISLE TO KEEP IT SAFE FROM MY FATHER.
LOOK, I KNOW YER POPS IS THE MIGHTY LORD SILVERFALL, BUT HE AIN'T GOT A CHANCE, GLO'.
PHOTON HIMSELF PROVIDED THE MATRIX FOR THE SAFE'S ALLOY--IT'S INDESTRUCTIBLE! I'M TELLIN' YA, IT'S FOOL PROOF. NOW, LET'S GET UPSTAIRS--AND BLOW THIS JOINT.
I'M SORRY, BARTHOLOMEW--I KNOW YOU'RE ONLY TRYING TO HELP.
MY FATHER'S SHADOW IS EVER PRESENT.
AND THIS SCEPTER IS SACRED TO MY PEOPLE--IT IS A SYMBOL OF OUR POWER AND INDEPENDENCE--NO HARM MAY EVER COME TO IT.

THE COLLECTION OF ART AND ANTIQUITIES IS MY PASSION--I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO IT. ARE YOU A CHAMPION OF ART, AVENGELYNE?

ACTUALLY, THIS IS HER FIRST TRIP TO A MUSEUM.

IT'S TRUE. I HAD NO IDEA A PLACE LIKE THIS EVEN EXISTED. IT'S QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'M USED TO.

WE MUST REMEDY THAT. NEW YORK IS THE HOME TO MANY SUCH MUSEUMS. PERHAPS I COULD INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM--A CULTURAL TOUR COURTESY OF DEVLIN TRASK.

OH MY... HE'S...

...HE'S **INCREDIBLE**. I'VE NEVER MET A MORTAL LIKE HIM BEFORE. HIS PRESENCE IS SO POWERFUL...SO STRONG...

...SO **STRANGE**...

THIS MUST BE THE MAN I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT.

GLORIANA DEMETER--I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO **DEVLIN TRASK**.

WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE THE PLEASURE OF THIS MOMENT, MS. DEMETER. I HAVE LONG BEEN AN ADMIRER OF YOURS.

THANK YOU, **MR. TRASK**. PLEASE--CALL ME **GLORY**.

OF COURSE, GLORY.

WOULD YOU LIKE THAT, AVENGELYNE?

OH, YES--THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL. I LIVE WITH THE SISTERS AT THE ST. AUGUSTINE CONVENT.

EXCELLENT, I'LL CALL YOU THERE. WHAT A FORTUITOUS ENCOUNTER THIS HAS BEEN.

BUT IF YOU'LL BOTH EXCUSE ME--THERE'S SOMEONE I MUST INTRODUCE MYSELF TO.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I FEEL SO...

SO, MR. **ANDERSON** TELLS ME YOU'RE A COLLECTOR OF FINE ART.

TRUE, MY CHIEF PURSUIT IS THE COLLECTION OF GREAT ART...I FIND ITS BEAUTY INTOXICATING...

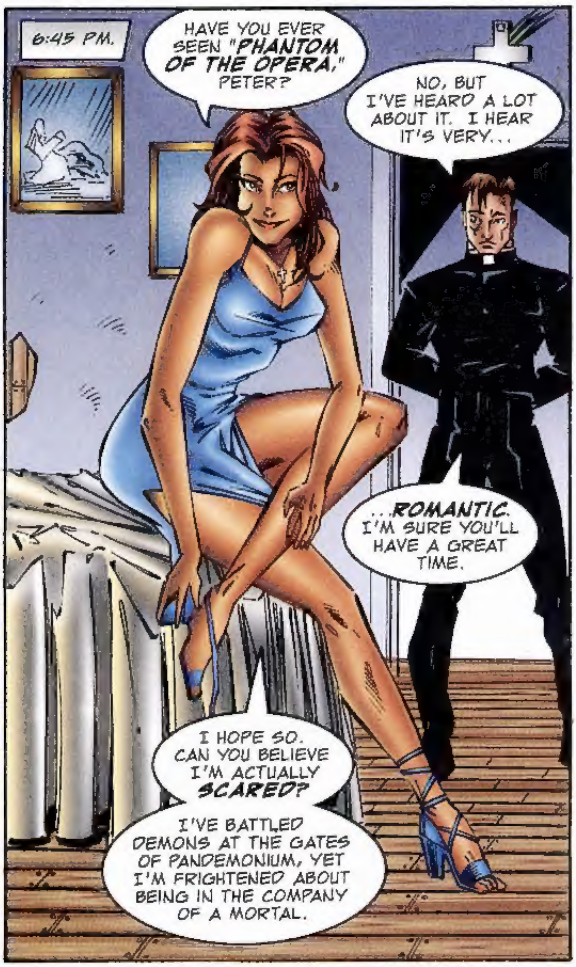
...AS IS YOURS, GLORIANA.

PERHAPS WE COULD LOOK AT THE EXHIBIT TOGETHER...AND YOU COULD TELL ME SOMETHING OF YOUR PASSIONS.

VERY WELL, DEVLIN, LET'S DO THAT.

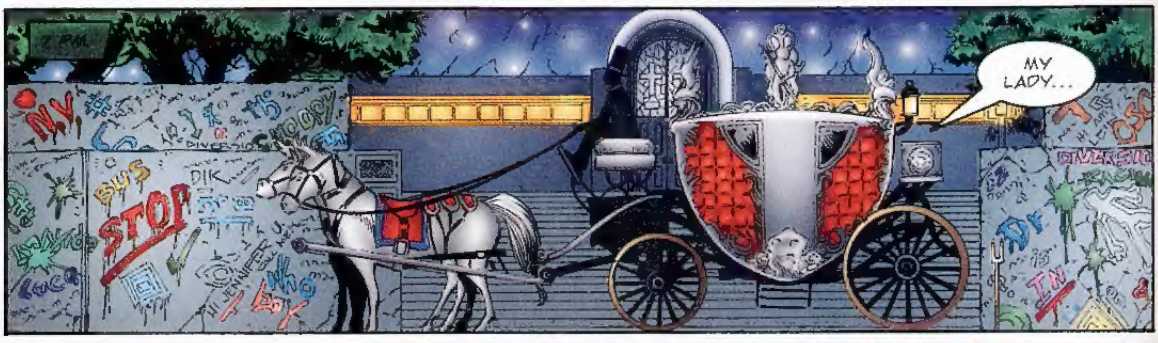
LATER THAT NIGHT...
OH, SISTER JANICE--HE WAS JUST INCREDIBLE. HE WAS SO HANDSOME--AND HIS EYES WERE BEAUTIFUL. ALL THE GIRLS IN THE MUSEUM WERE LOOKING AT HIM. AND WHEN PETER FIRST INTRODUCED US, HE KISSED MY HAND--HE KISSED IT!
PETER SAID MY FACE TURNED RED, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE HIM.
TAKE CARE, MY CHILD--YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY, AND MEN OF THE WORLD ARE NOTORIOUS FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADIES.
NO, HE'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL. HE'S AN ART COLLECTOR--FATHER MALORY KNOWS HIM. DEVLIN IS A PERFECT GENTLEMAN.
HE SAID HE'D CALL ME SOON AND WE'D GO VISIT THE OTHER MUSEUMS IN THE CITY. I HOPE HE DOES...I'D LOVE TO SEE HIM AGAIN...
OH, YOU WILL HEAR FROM ME, AVENGELYNE.
AND SOONER--
--THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
PERFECT. I COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A MORE PROFITABLE EVENING. TOMORROW, I'LL ARRANGE MY TRYST WITH THE YOUNG LADIES, AND MOVE ONE STEP CLOSER TO MY PRIZE.
I TELL YOU, WINTERS--IT'S NIGHTS LIKE THESE THAT MAKE BEING A THIEF WORTHWHILE. ALL RIGHT, LET'S BE ON OUR WAY.
VERY GOOD, SIR.

THE NEXT DAY...
I KNOW IT'S RATHER SOON TO BE CALLING, GLORY--BUT I'VE JUST FOUND OUT ABOUT THE MOST AMAZING CLUB IN MANHATTAN.
I'M GOING THERE TONIGHT, YOU MUST JOIN ME.
DEVLIN, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU, BUT NIGHTCLUBS AREN'T MY USUAL--
I SIMPLY WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
YOU'RE VERY PERSUASIVE, MR. TRASK...ALL RIGHT, I'LL JOIN YOU.
GOOD, I'LL PICK YOU UP AT MIDNIGHT. WHERE'S YOUR APARTMENT?
BEEP! BEEP!
BEEP! BEEP!
TONIGHT?
I WAS ABLE TO ACQUIRE TICKETS FOR "PHANTOM OF THE OPERA." IT'S BACK IN TOWN--HAVE YOU SEEN IT?
NO...I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT.
IT'S A LOVE STORY...ABOUT AN ANGEL OF MUSIC.
AVENGELY--OH, EXCUSE ME...
SOUNDS WONDERFUL.
GOOD--THEN I'LL PICK YOU UP AT SEVEN.
A DANGEROUS GAME, SIR--IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING. A DATE WITH TWO WOMEN ON THE SAME NIGHT.
TIME, WINTERS.
TIME IS NOT OUR ALLY IN THIS PURSUIT, MY FRIEND.
I HAVE WAITED A LONG TIME TO OBTAIN THE SCEPTER OF AMAZONIA. FOR YEARS, IT HAS REMAINED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SLIP*, SAFE AND UNATTAINABLE. BUT AFTER TONIGHT, GLORY WILL WISH SHE'D NEVER BROUGHT IT TO OUR SIDE.
RELAX, WINTERS, THE SCEPTER IS PRACTICALLY IN MY GRASP.
*THE SLIP: THE DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY SEPARATING EARTH AND AMAZONIA.

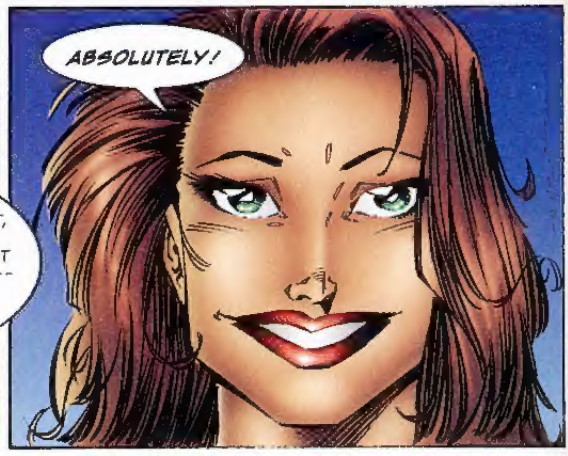

6:45 PM.
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN "PHANTOM OF THE OPERA," PETER?
NO, BUT I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT IT. I HEAR IT'S VERY...
...ROMANTIC. I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE A GREAT TIME.
I HOPE SO. CAN YOU BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY SCARED?
I'VE BATTLED DEMONS AT THE GATES OF PANDEMONIUM, YET I'M FRIGHTENED ABOUT BEING IN THE COMPANY OF A MORTAL.

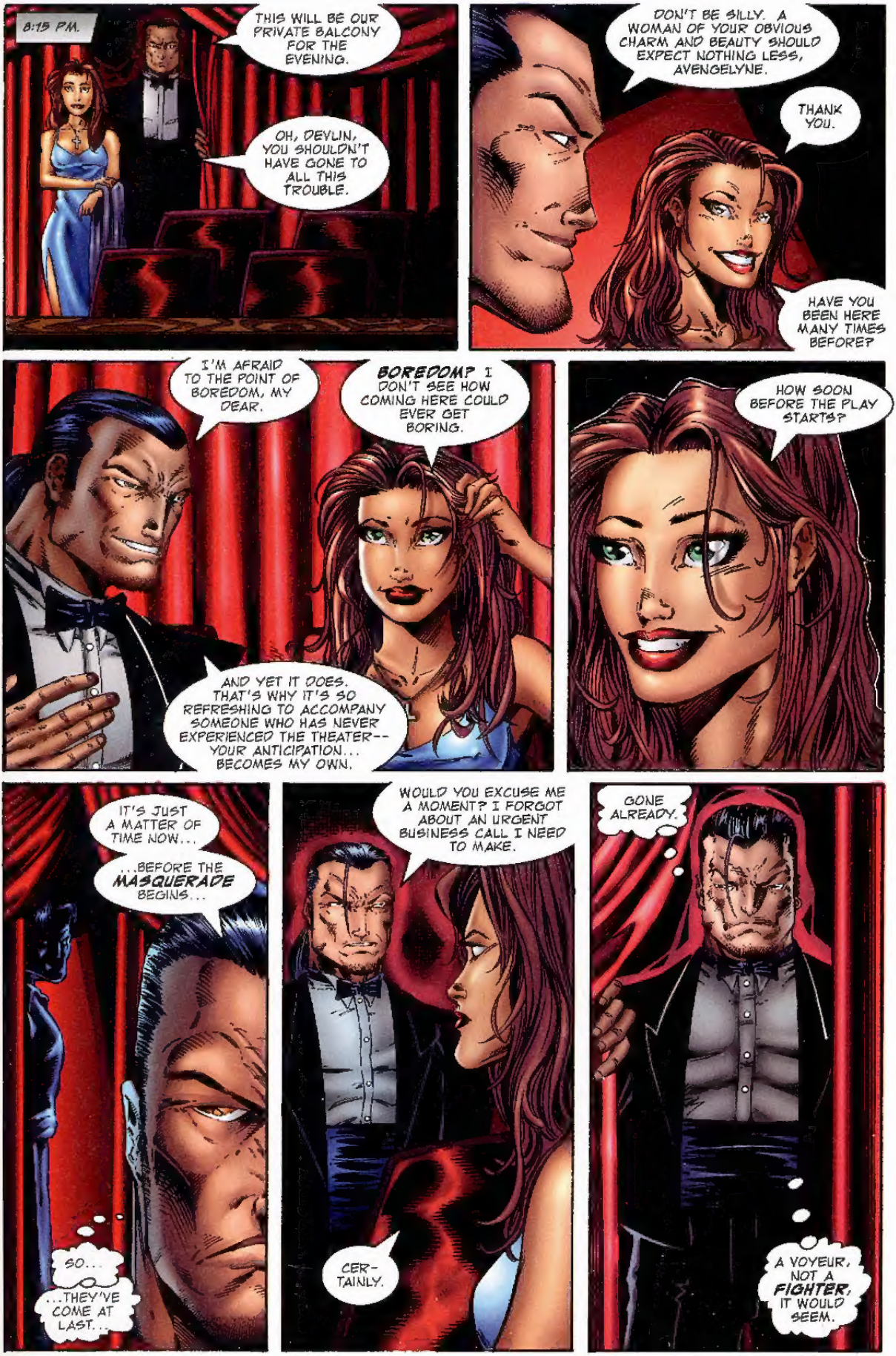
PETER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING.
OH, ME--NO-- NOTHING'S WRONG WITH ME.
I'M JUST... TIRED.

WELL, GET SOME REST TONIGHT.
MAYBE TOMORROW WE CAN HAVE LUNCH.
SURE-- LUNCH.
LUNCH WOULD BE NICE. SEE YOU TOMORROW, AVENGELYNE.
GOOD NIGHT, PETER.
GOOD NIGHT.


7 PM.
MY LADY...

...YOUR HORSE AND CARRIAGE AWAITS.
OH, DEVLIN...IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
EVERY PRINCESS DESERVES HER CHARIOT, DOES SHE NOT? AND MAY I SAY HOW RADIANT YOU LOOK THIS EVENING-- ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR NIGHT OF ADVENTURE?


ABSOLUTELY!

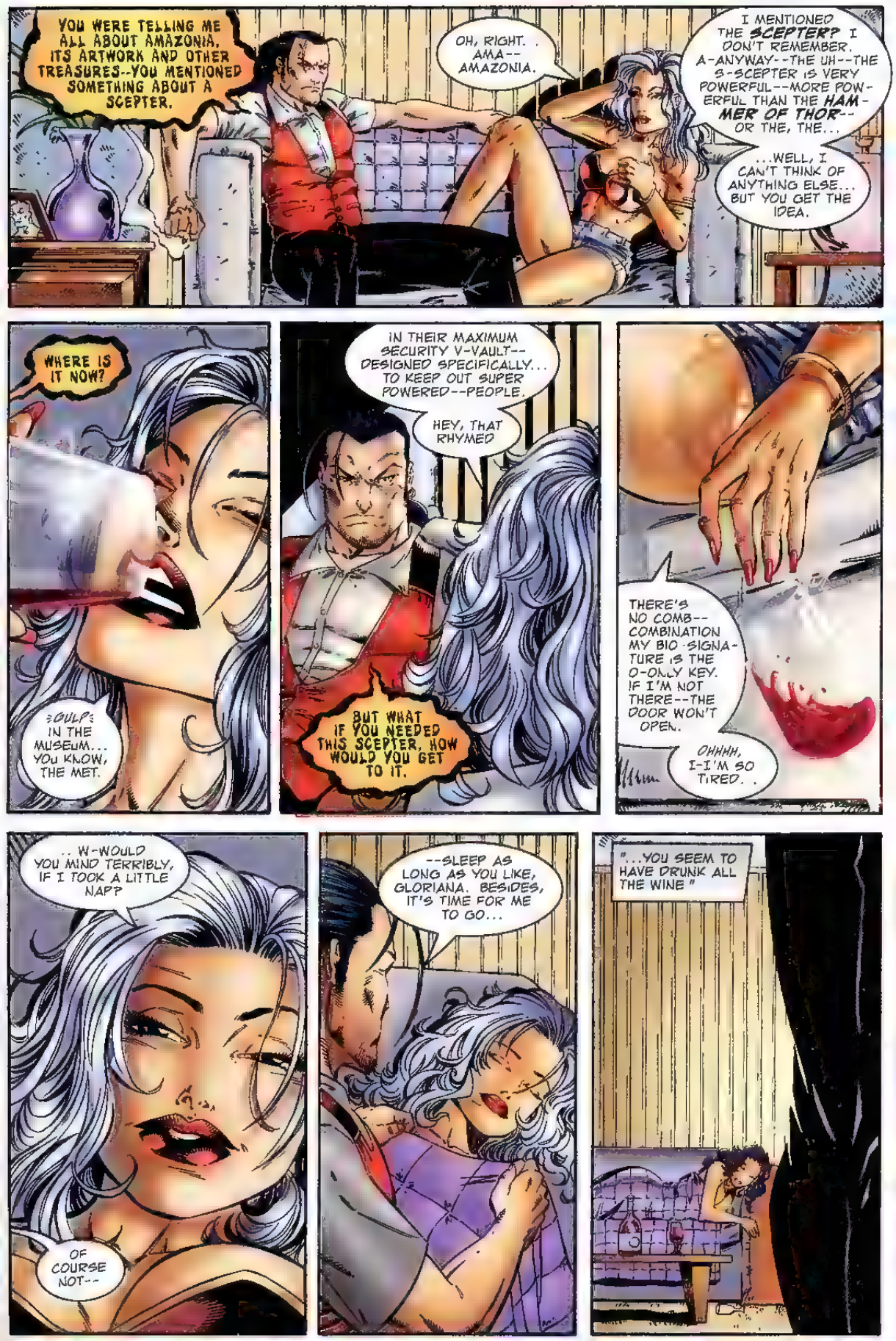

8:15 PM.
THIS WILL BE OUR PRIVATE BALCONY FOR THE EVENING.
OH, DEVLIN, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO ALL THIS TROUBLE.
DON'T BE SILLY. A WOMAN OF YOUR OBVIOUS CHARM AND BEAUTY SHOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS, AVENGELYNE.
THANK YOU.
HAVE YOU BEEN HERE MANY TIMES BEFORE?
I'M AFRAID TO THE POINT OF BOREDOM, MY DEAR.
BOREDOM? I DON'T SEE HOW COMING HERE COULD EVER GET BORING.
AND YET IT DOES. THAT'S WHY IT'S SO REFRESHING TO ACCOMPANY SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED THE THEATER-- YOUR ANTICIPATION... BECOMES MY OWN.
HOW SOON BEFORE THE PLAY STARTS?
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME NOW...
...BEFORE THE MASQUERADE BEGINS...
SO...
...THEY'VE COME AT LAST...
WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME A MOMENT? I FORGOT ABOUT AN URGENT BUSINESS CALL I NEED TO MAKE.
CER-TAINLY.
GONE ALREADY.
A VOYEUR, NOT A FIGHTER, IT WOULD SEEM.

DEVLIN, COME BACK, THE PLAY'S STARTING!
VERY WELL, MY FRIEND..
...WE'LL FINISH OUR LITTLE GAME..
..ANOTHER TIME
11:30 PM
OH, DEVLIN-- EVERYTHING WAS WONDERFUL--THE MUSIC AND THE SINGING. I ACTUALLY CRIED AT THE END.
I NOTICED, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO EMBARRASS YOU BY SAYING ANYTHING.
I JUST FELT SO SORRY FOR THE PHANTOM--ALL HE WANTED WAS LOVE, BUT LIFE WOULDN'T PERMIT IT
THAT IS ALL ANY OF US WANTS, AVENGELYNE. A TRUE LOVE--THE KIND THAT COMES ONLY ONCE IN A LIFE TIME.
TELL ME, DEVLIN...
HAVE YOU EVER FELT THAT KIND OF LOVE?
NOT UNTIL THIS VERY MOMENT..
UH..
GOOD NIGHT, MY PRINCESS.
PERHAPS TOMORROW WE COULD HAVE LUNCH. I'LL CALL YOU AT NOON, ALL RIGHT?
UH...
...I..
..ALL RIGHT... GOOD NIGHT, DEVLIN

MIDNIGHT
GLORY'S APARTMENT.
212
I MUST SAY, GLORIANA, YOU'RE GOING TO TURN QUITE A FEW HEADS TONIGHT.
I REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANY-THING APPROPRIATE TO WEAR FOR A NIGHT-CLUB, SO I WENT SHOPPING THIS AFTERNOON
TRUST ME, YOU LOOK RAVISHING
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DEVLIN, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A NIGHTCLUB BEFORE-- I HOPE I DON'T EMBARRASS YOU
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. IT IS I, A MERE MORTAL, WHO SHOULD BE EMBARRASSED TO BE IN THE COMPANY OF SUCH AN EXTRA-ORDINARY WOMAN.
SHORTLY
ARE YOU ENJOYING YOURSELF?
YES--YOU'RE A WONDERFUL DANCER, DEVLIN. I GET THE FEELING I'M NOT THE FIRST WOMAN TO FALL PREY TO YOUR CHARMS.
NOR AM I YOUR FIRST MAN. AFTER ALL, HOW CAN I COMPETE WITH THE LEGENDARY SUPREME.
WHO?
YOU'RE WIT IS EXTRAORDINARY-- EH?/
SO MY FRIEND FROM THE OPERA HAS RETURNED
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NO, OF COURSE NOT. I'M JUST GOING TO THE MEN'S LOUNGE I'LL RETURN SHORTLY

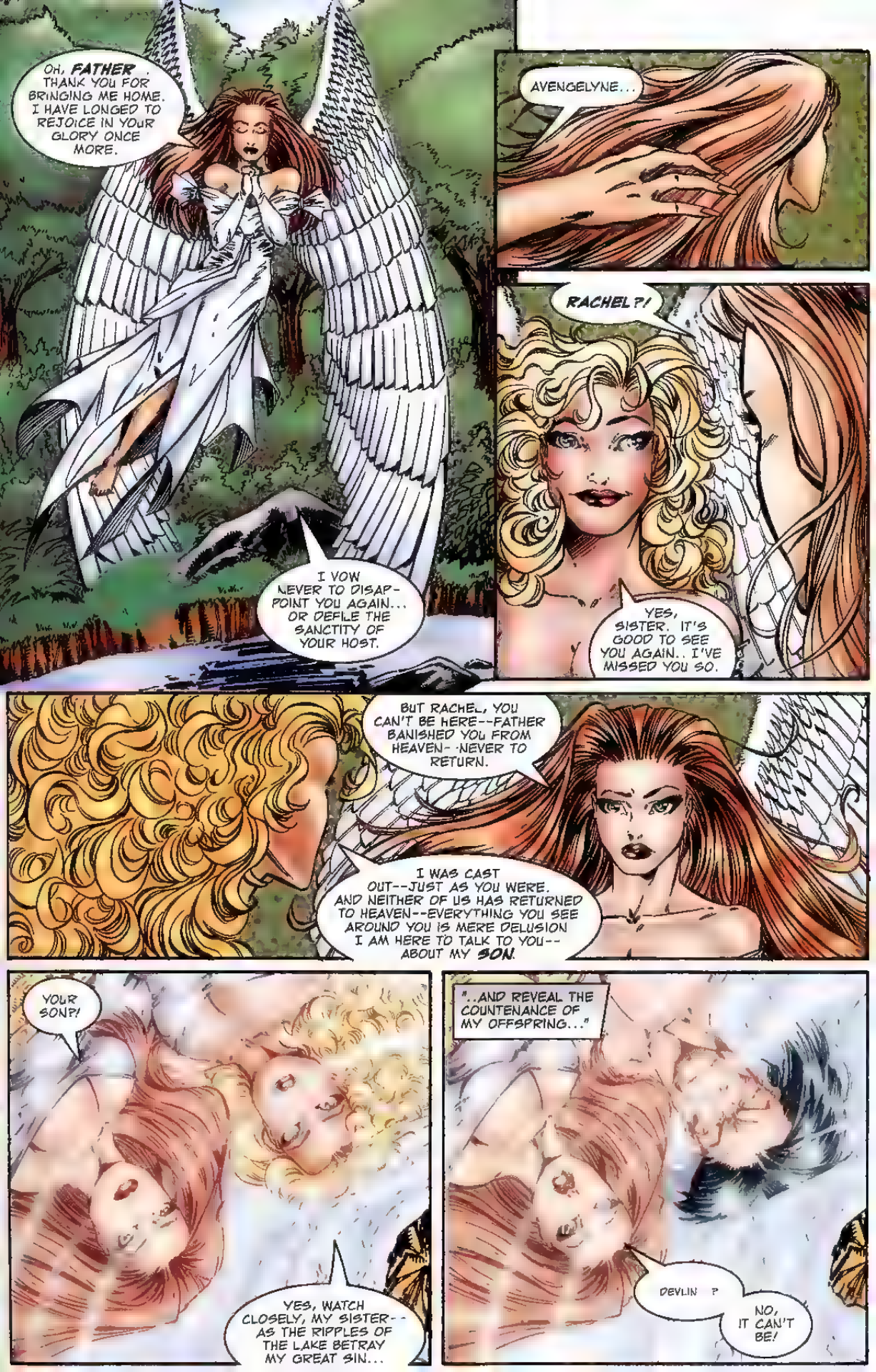
AND NOW, MY FRIEND . . .
. . . IT'S TIME WE SAID OUR HELLOS .
. . . AND OUR GOOD-BYES.
EXCUSE ME, I SEEM TO HAVE MISPLACED MY SHADOW . IS IT IN HERE?
IT'S HERE!
WAK!
THEN LET'S PLAY!
I'M NICKO. I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU ALL NIGHT, TRASK. YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY THE WOMEN--I'LL GIVE YA THAT.
HOW GRACIOUS OF YOU
THIS IS REAL SIMPLE, TRASK. YOU'RE GOIN' BYE-BYE AS OF RIGHT NOW. YOU CAN EITHER DO IT ON YOUR OWN, OR IN A BOX. EITHER WAY, MY BOSS SAYS YOU'RE OUTTA NEW YORK TONIGHT.
IF YOUR BOSS SENT YOU HERE TO PLAY, NICKO--
KRASH!
THUD!

2 AM.
I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CLUB, GLORIANA, BUT YOU KNOW HOW THESE STREET PUNKS ARE. THEY'LL ATTACK ANYONE TO QUELL THEIR INNER DEMONS
HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN THIS CITY--IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. I HAD A VERY PLEASANT EVENING.
GOOD. I'M NOT ONE TO INVITE MYSELF IN, BUT HOW ABOUT A NIGHTCAP?
I DON'T DRINK, DEVLIN
WELL, YOU CAN MAKE AN EXCEPTION THIS ONCE--
"--FOR ME."
NO--NO, DEVLIN. I CAN'T :HICCUP: HAVE ANY MORE--
--I'M NOT, UH ..NOT USED TO THIS. I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO FALL ASLEEP.
JUST ONE MORE GLASS, GLORIANA--
I MUST INSIST.
I GUESS :HICCUP!: ONE MORE GLASS-- CAN'T HURT.
WH-WHAT WE'RE WE TALKING ABOUT?

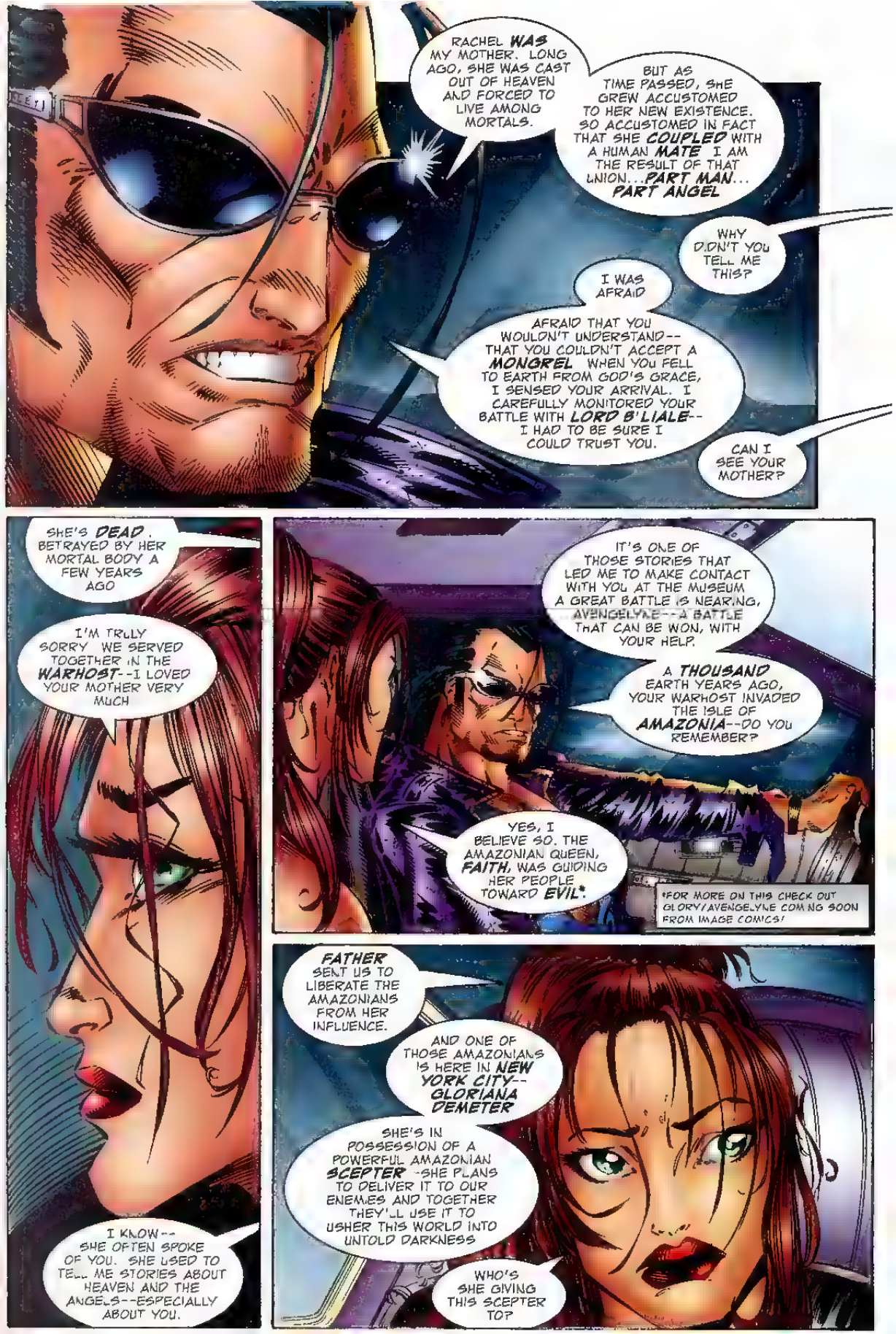

YOU WERE TELLING ME ALL ABOUT AMAZONIA, ITS ARTWORK AND OTHER TREASURES--YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT A SCEPTER.
OH, RIGHT. . AMA-- AMAZONIA.
I MENTIONED THE SCEPTER? I DON'T REMEMBER. A-ANYWAY--THE UH--THE S-SCEPTER IS VERY POWERFUL--MORE POWERFUL THAN THE HAMMER OF THOR-- OR THE, THE...
...WELL, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE... BUT YOU GET THE IDEA.
WHERE IS IT NOW?
=GULP= IN THE MUSEUM... YOU KNOW, THE MET.
IN THEIR MAXIMUM SECURITY V-VAULT-- DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY... TO KEEP OUT SUPER POWERED--PEOPLE.
HEY, THAT RHYMED
BUT WHAT IF YOU NEEDED THIS SCEPTER, HOW WOULD YOU GET TO IT.
THERE'S NO COMB-- COMBINATION MY BIO-SIGNATURE IS THE O-ONLY KEY. IF I'M NOT THERE--THE DOOR WON'T OPEN.
OHHHH, I-I'M SO TIRED. .
.. W-WOULD YOU MIND TERRIBLY, IF I TOOK A LITTLE NAP?
OF COURSE NOT--
--SLEEP AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, GLORIANA. BESIDES, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO...
"...YOU SEEM TO HAVE DRUNK ALL THE WINE"

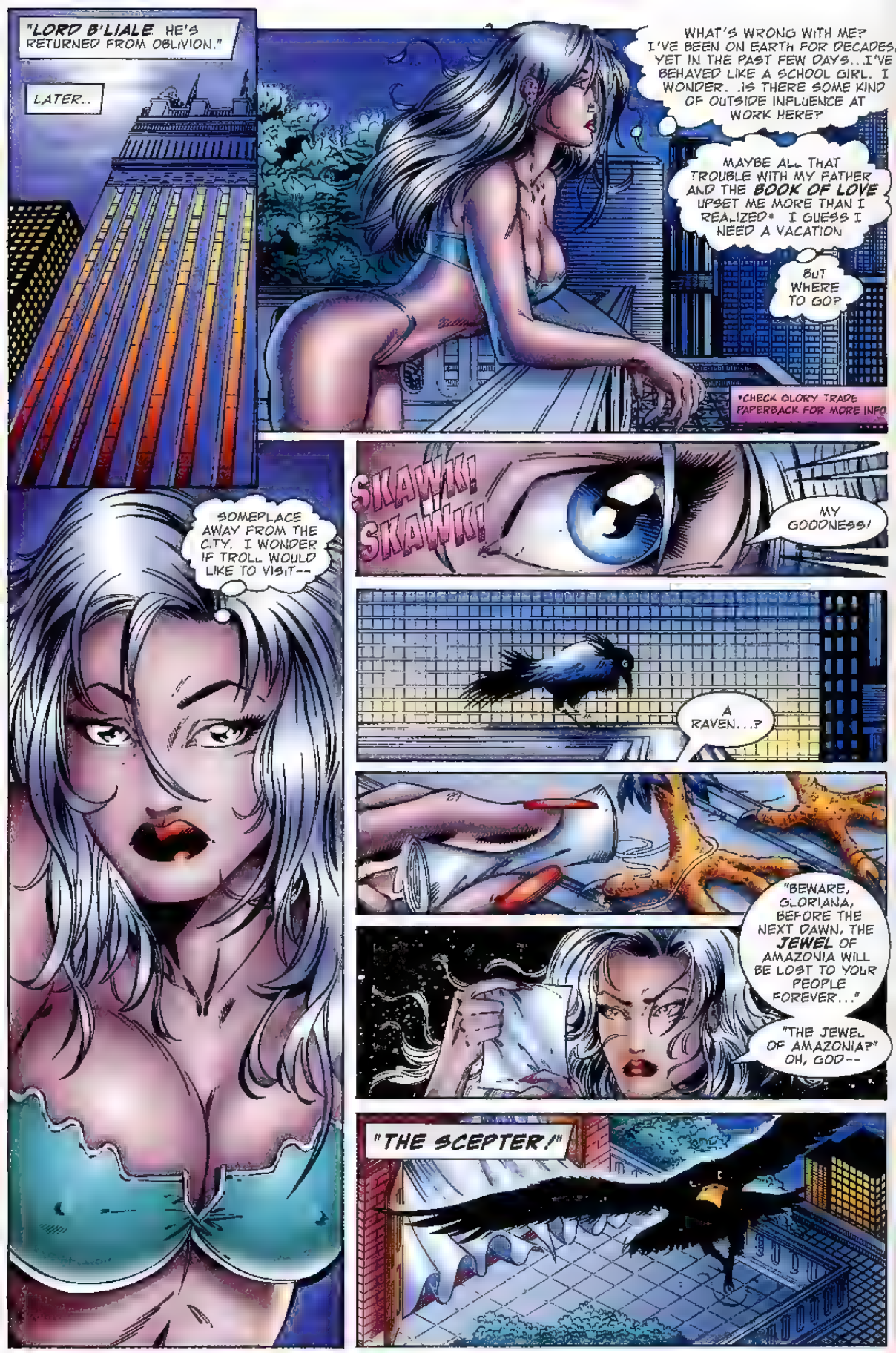
AHHHHH!
NO! BURNING--I'M BURNING!
THE PAIN WILL PASS IN A MOMENT, SIR. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU MISSED AN EXCELLENT CHANCE TO ACQUIRE THE SCEPTER TONIGHT. IT SOUNDS LIKE MS. DEMETER WAS UNDER YOUR COMPLETE CONTROL
ARE YOU INSANE, WINTERS?! HER MIND IS FORMIDABLE...IT TOOK ALL THE STRENGTH I COULD SUMMON JUST TO GET HER TO GO TO THE CLUB--AND DRINK THE WINE.
THIS IS GOING TO TAKE A DELICATE HAND IF I AM TO SURVIVE.
SIR, ARE YOU CERTAIN THE SCEPTER IS WORTH THE RISK?
JUST LOOK AT ME!
I AM A DEMON LORD--YET I GROVEL ON MY KNEES LIKE A PATHETIC MORTAL--WHILE THE POWERS WHICH ARE MY BIRTHRIGHT DEVOUR ME FROM WITHIN!
I MUST HAVE THE SCEPTER--ONLY ITS STRENGTH CAN BRING AN END TO THIS AGONY--AND SAVE MY LIFE!
MEANWHILE...
ENTER, NICHOLAS...
...AND REPORT.
WELL, UH, I RAN INTO A SMALL PROBLEM, MY LORD
WHAT SORT OF... PROBLEM?
HE WAS A LOT STRONGER THAN I EXPECTED AND--
AND WHAT?!
HE'S STILL ALIVE
FOOL!

I WARNED YOU NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE HIS POWER--YOUR PITIABLE SKILLS ARE NO MATCH FOR THE STRENGTH OF A DEMON LORD! IT IS IMBECILES LIKE YOU THAT LED TO MY DOWNFALL AT THE HANDS OF AVENGELYNE--- I SHALL NOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN AGAIN!
BUT, SIR, I--
BE SILENT! IF YOU VALUE YOUR EXISTENCE, YOU'LL SPEAK ONLY WHEN I COMMAND...WHERE WAS HE TONIGHT?
FIRST, HE TOOK AVENGELYNE TO THE THEATER--AND THEN HE WENT TO A NIGHTCLUB WITH GLORY DEMETER.
GLORY?!
YES, AFTER--AFTER OUR F-FIGHT--HE WENT BACK TO GLORY'S APARTMENT.
I FOLLOWED HIM THERE AND USED MY POWERS TO EAVES-DROP--THEY JUST TALKED--ABOUT A SCEPTER--
THE SCEPTER?!
SO HE HAS HIS EYE ON THE SCEPTER OF AMAZONIA. EXCELLENT.
DEVLIN IS A FOOL--EVEN I WOULD NOT DARE TO MASTER SUCH POWER.
IF HE SEEKS TO POSESS THE AMAZONIAN SCEPTER, THEN WE WILL NOT INTERFERE...
*FOR MORE ON B'LIALE'S RETURN AND HIS CONFLICT WITH AVENGELYNE--SEE THE AVENGELYNE MINI-SERIES AND THE UPCOMING ASYLUM #1.


OH, FATHER . THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME HOME. I HAVE LONGED TO REJOICE IN YOUR GLORY ONCE MORE.
I VOW NEVER TO DISAP-POINT YOU AGAIN... OR DEFILE THE SANCTITY OF YOUR HOST.
AVENGELYNE...
RACHEL?!
YES, SISTER. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.. I'VE MISSED YOU SO.
BUT RACHEL, YOU CAN'T BE HERE--FATHER BANISHED YOU FROM HEAVEN- -NEVER TO RETURN.
I WAS CAST OUT--JUST AS YOU WERE. AND NEITHER OF US HAS RETURNED TO HEAVEN--EVERYTHING YOU SEE AROUND YOU IS MERE DELUSION I AM HERE TO TALK TO YOU-- ABOUT MY SON.
YOUR SON?!
YES, WATCH CLOSELY, MY SISTER-- AS THE RIPPLES OF THE LAKE BETRAY MY GREAT SIN...
"..AND REVEAL THE COUNTENANCE OF MY OFFSPRING..."
DEVLIN ?
NO, IT CAN'T BE!

DEVLIN!
HUH?! S-SISTER JANICE?
YES, CHILD--I WAS IN THE HALL WHEN I HEARD YOU SCREAMING--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SIGH
YES ..T WAS JUST. . ANOTHER BAD DREAM, THAT'S ALL.
I SEE WELL, THERE'S A GENTLEMAN WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE--A VERY NICE YOUNG MAN SHOULD I TELL HIM TO COME BACK LATER?
DEVLIN
NO, SISTER--THANK YOU. I NEED TO SEE HIM
COULD YOU TELL PETER I CAN'T HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM TODAY
SHORTLY...
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T CALL YOU FIRST, BUT I HAD BUSINESS NEARBY, SO I THOUGHT I'D JUST COME OVER
AVENGELYNE, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT LAST NIGHT. IT WAS IMPRUDENT OF ME TO KISS YOU SO SUDDENLY I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I'M FORCING MYSELF ON YOU--
--THE TRUTH IS, I'M COMPLETELY ENAMORED WITH YOU, AVENGELYNE. NEVER BEFORE HAS A WOMAN SO AFFECTED ME YOUR INNOCENCE AND BEAUTY HAS CAST A SPELL ON ME. I HOPE THAT DOESN'T SOUND TRITE?
DEVLIN .. WAS RACHEL YOUR MOTHER?
IT'S FINE, DEVLIN LET'S GO.
I . I SUSPECTED YOU'D FIND OUT...
. .BUT NOT THIS SOON


RACHEL WAS MY MOTHER. LONG AGO, SHE WAS CAST OUT OF HEAVEN AND FORCED TO LIVE AMONG MORTALS.
BUT AS TIME PASSED, SHE GREW ACCUSTOMED TO HER NEW EXISTENCE. SO ACCUSTOMED IN FACT THAT SHE COUPLED WITH A HUMAN MATE I AM THE RESULT OF THAT UNION...PART MAN... PART ANGEL
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS?
I WAS AFRAID
AFRAID THAT YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND--THAT YOU COULDN'T ACCEPT A MONGREL WHEN YOU FELL TO EARTH FROM GOD'S GRACE, I SENSED YOUR ARRIVAL. I CAREFULLY MONITORED YOUR BATTLE WITH LORD B'LIALE--I HAD TO BE SURE I COULD TRUST YOU.
CAN I SEE YOUR MOTHER?
SHE'S DEAD. BETRAYED BY HER MORTAL BODY A FEW YEARS AGO
I'M TRULY SORRY WE SERVED TOGETHER IN THE WARHOST--I LOVED YOUR MOTHER VERY MUCH
I KNOW--SHE OFTEN SPOKE OF YOU. SHE USED TO TELL ME STORIES ABOUT HEAVEN AND THE ANGELS--ESPECIALLY ABOUT YOU.
IT'S ONE OF THOSE STORIES THAT LED ME TO MAKE CONTACT WITH YOU AT THE MUSEUM A GREAT BATTLE IS NEARING, AVENGELYNE--A BATTLE THAT CAN BE WON, WITH YOUR HELP.
A THOUSAND EARTH YEARS AGO, YOUR WARHOST INVADED THE ISLE OF AMAZONIA--DO YOU REMEMBER?
YES, I BELIEVE SO. THE AMAZONIAN QUEEN, FAITH, WAS GUIDING HER PEOPLE TOWARD EVIL*.
*FOR MORE ON THIS CHECK OUT GLORY/AVENGELYNE COMING SOON FROM IMAGE COMICS!
FATHER SENT US TO LIBERATE THE AMAZONIANS FROM HER INFLUENCE.
AND ONE OF THOSE AMAZONIANS IS HERE IN NEW YORK CITY--GLORIANA DEMETER
SHE'S IN POSSESSION OF A POWERFUL AMAZONIAN SCEPTER -SHE PLANS TO DELIVER IT TO OUR ENEMIES AND TOGETHER THEY'LL USE IT TO USHER THIS WORLD INTO UNTOLD DARKNESS
WHO'S SHE GIVING THIS SCEPTER TO?


"LORD B'LIALE HE'S RETURNED FROM OBLIVION."
LATER...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I'VE BEEN ON EARTH FOR DECADES, YET IN THE PAST FEW DAYS...I'VE BEHAVED LIKE A SCHOOL GIRL. I WONDER...IS THERE SOME KIND OF OUTSIDE INFLUENCE AT WORK HERE?
MAYBE ALL THAT TROUBLE WITH MY FATHER AND THE BOOK OF LOVE UPSET ME MORE THAN I REALIZED. I GUESS I NEED A VACATION
BUT WHERE TO GO?
*CHECK GLORY TRADE PAPERBACK FOR MORE INFO
SOMEPLACE AWAY FROM THE CITY. I WONDER IF TROLL WOULD LIKE TO VISIT--
SKAWK! SKAWK!
MY GOODNESS!
A RAVEN...?
"BEWARE, GLORIANA, BEFORE THE NEXT DAWN, THE JEWEL OF AMAZONIA WILL BE LOST TO YOUR PEOPLE FOREVER..."
"THE JEWEL OF AMAZONIA?" OH, GOD--
"THE SCEPTER!"

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.
TEN MINUTES LATER
TO SEAL THEIR UNHOLY ALLIANCE, GLORY PLANS TO GIVE B'LIALE THE SCEPTER OF AMAZONIA. HE'LL USE IT TO DESTROY YOU, AVENGELYNE. HE BELIEVES THAT YOU ALONE STAND BETWEEN HIM AND THE WORLD HE COVETS
WHY WOULD THE AMAZONIAN HELP HIM?
SHE WAS A LOYAL SUBJECT OF QUEEN FAITH-- SHE HAS NEVER ESCAPED THAT DARK LEGACY.
SHHH, SHE'S HERE.
WAIT UNTIL SHE'S OPENED THE VAULT--WHILE YOU'RE DEALING WITH HER-- I'LL DEAL WITH THE SCEPTER
I UNDERSTAND REMEMBER, DEVLIN, FATHER'S WATCHING OVER US.
STRANGE, NOTHING SEEMS OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
THIS IS GLORY DEMETER-- DISENGAGE LOCKS--
SCAN COMPLETE. IDENTITY CONFIRMED. BIO-LOCK DISENGAGED.
IT'S HERE-- JUST AS I LEFT IT . THIS MUST BE ANOTHER ONE OF LORD SILVERFALL'S TWISTED LITTLE GAMES ..
...BUT TO WHAT END?
MS DEMETER?

EH?

KRAK!

UGH!

--AND SAVE YOUR **SOUL** FROM THE POISONOUS INFLUENCE OF YOUR OWN HERITAGE.

HUH?

A DARK SHADOW LINGERS OVER YOU, GLORIANA DEMETER. I AM HERE TO CAST THE LIGHT OF TRUTH--

WAIT--!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

THAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAVE MY SOUL...FROM A *POISONOUS INFLUENCE...?!*

DAMN YOU, I'VE HEARD THOSE WORDS *BEFORE!*

THOR!

AARGHH!

I REMEMBER YOUR WORDS! WHEN I WAS A CHILD, YOU AND AN ARMY OF WINGED ASSASSINS INVADED AMAZONIA AND BANISHED OUR QUEEN BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!

QUEEN FAITH WAS *EVIL*, GLORIANA, HAD MY KIND NOT INTERVENED ON YOUR BEHALF, ALL AMAZONIANS WOULD NOW BE SLAVES TO DARKNESS! I SAVED YOU THEN--

GLORY ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO NEEDS SAVING, AVENGELYNE!

THAT'S RIGHT, LADIES, I'M AFRAID THE CHARADE IS OVER! WHILE RACHEL WAS INDEED MY MOTHER, I WASN'T AS FORTHCOMING ABOUT MY FATHER'S IDENTITY. MOTHER DIDN'T MATE WITH A HUMAN, AVENGELYNE--

SHE MATED WITH A **DEMON LORD!**

LIVING AS A HALF-BREED HAS CERTAINLY HAD ITS REWARDS, BUT THERE IS ONE DEFINITE DRAWBACK--THE DEMONIC POWERS WHICH ARE THE BIRTHRIGHT OF EVERY DEMON ARE DEVOURING MY ANGELIC SIDE--AND KILLING ME IN THE PROCESS.

THANKS TO GLORY, I'LL USE THE SCEPTER AS A SURGEON WOULD A SCALPEL, AND HACK AWAY AT THE ANGEL WITHIN ME UNTIL I'VE RID MYSELF OF IT COMPLETELY!

DEVLIN, NO! YOUR MOTHER GAVE YOU A WONDERFUL GIFT--IT IS THE *DIVINITY* WITHIN YOURSELF--YOU MUST NOT DESTROY IT!

WAK!

--AND I'LL SAVE YOU *NOW!*

UNH!

HA HA HA HA HA

DEVLIN!

DEVLIN...?

OH, AVENGELYNE, YOUR NAIVETE IS INDEED AMUSING. OIL AND WATER DON'T MIX, AND NEITHER DOES LIGHT AND SHADOW! I WILL HAPPILY DESTROY THE DIVINITY WITHIN ME--IT IS NOTHING BUT A NUISANCE!
BEFORE I KILL YOU, HOWEVER, I WANT TO THANK YOU BOTH. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU.
HOWEVER ERRONEOUS YOUR OPINIONS OF EACH OTHER WERE, I KNEW THEY'D BOLSTER CONFLICT ONCE YOU WERE TOGETHER. YOUR OWN FEARS DID THE REST...
YOU, GLORY, WERE SO AFRAID OF LORD SILVERFALL THAT YOU FOOLISHLY BROUGHT THE SCEPTER TO EARTH. AND YOU, AVENGELYNE, ARE SO EAGER TO REGAIN GOD'S GRACE YOU'D TRY ALMOST ANYTHING.
YOU MADE MY JOB VERY EASY. BUT NOW, I MUST BID YOU ADIEU.
WAIT!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE SCEPTER!
AHHHHH!

WA!
THOOM!

KLANK
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, GLORY--WHAT HAPPENED?!
THE SCEPTER IS AMAZONIAN. ONLY A WOMAN MAY HARNESS ITS POWER...CERTAINLY NOT A DEMON LORD.
LATER...
WE WERE BOTH MANIPULATED, AVENGELYNE.
AND BESIDES, MORTAL LOVE IS A VERY POWERFUL OPPONENT. IN MY EXPERIENCE, PASSION OFTEN MAKES PEOPLE DO THINGS THEY WOULDN'T NORMALLY DO.
GLORY... I FEEL SO EMPTY...
...SO ASHAMED. I'VE KNOWN THE LOVE OF GOD FIRST HAND... YET MY HEART WAS SO EASILY LURED BY THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH. I TRULY LOVED DEVLIN, IN A WAY THAT I'VE NEVER LOVED ANYONE.
THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING.
I SUPPOSE NOW YOU WANT TO SETTLE OUR...DIS-AGREEMENT.
NO, AVENGELYNE, AMAZONIANS FIGHT FOR THEIR OWN REASONS--I WON'T SUCCUMB TO DEVLIN'S MANIPULATIONS.
YOU KNOW WHAT'S STRANGE... IN SOME WAYS HE REMINDED ME OF MY ONE GREAT LOVE--THE MOST EGOTISTICAL, IMMATURE MALE IN THE UNIVERSE...
...A FELLA BY THE NAME OF SUPREME. WE MET YEARS AGO...
END